

## Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 IO-12 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /127 W

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R 110610 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0910

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E. O. 11652: N/ A ( DECON 5/11/74)

TAGS: PFOR, TW, AS

SUBJ: GOA DECLINES TO ISSUE VISA TO GRC FINANCE MINISTER

LI KUO- TING TO ATTEND PACIFIC BASIN ECONOMIC COORDINATING  
COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 089031

BEGIN SUMMARY: GOA ANNOUNCED MAY 9 IT HAD REFUSED  
TO APPROVE ISSUANCE OF VISA TO GRC FINANCE MINISTER LI  
KUO- TING TO ATTEND PACIFIC BASIN ECONOMIC COORDINATING  
COMMITTEE SESSION IN SYDNEY, BEGINNING MAY 14. BASIS  
FOR REFUSAL WAS FACT THAT LI WOULD BE TREATED AND  
REGARDED AS MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT WHICH GOA DOES NOT  
RECOGNIZE. GOA IS APPLYING VERY RIGOROUS STANDARD IN  
DECLINING TO ISSUE VISAS TO EITHER MINISTERS OR  
OFFICIALS OF GRC. SEEMS CLEAR THAT VERY TOUGH STANDARDS  
WILL BE USED TOWARDS ANY HOLDERS OF CHINESE NATIONALIST  
PASSPORTS. END SUMMARY.

2. CONTRARY TO ASSUMPTION UNDERLYING PARA 2 OF REFTTEL,  
GOA HAS DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO ISSUE VISA TO GRC FINANCE  
MINISTER LI KUO- TING TO ATTEND PACIFIC BASIN ECONOMIC  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE IN SYDNEY, BEGINNING MAY 14.  
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GOA HAS MADE CLEAR THAT REASON FOR REFUSAL IS THAT LI WILL APPEAR TO REPRESENT GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND HENCE VISIT CANNOT BE CONSIDERED PRIVATE IN NATURE.

3. ISSUE FIRST CAME UP IN QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT LAST WEEK BY COUNTRY PARTY DEPUTY LEADER SINCLAIR, WHO ASKED PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM IF HE WAS AWARE THAT LI KUO- TING WAS MINISTER FOR FINANCE OF TAIWAN AND THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO ATTEND PACIFIC BASIN ECONOMIC CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING. PRIME MINISTER REPLIED THAT MATTER WOULD BE CONSIDERED. IN SENATE MAY 9 SENATOR SIM ( LIBERAL, WESTERN AUSTRALIA) ASKED WHETHER LI HAD BEEN INVITED, WHETHER GOA HAD PLACED CONDITIONS ON LI' S ENTRY, AND WHETHER GOA HAD INTERVENED TO PREVENT LI FROM ATTENDING. IN REPLY, SENATOR WILLESEE ( ALP, WESTERN AUSTRALIA), SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE, STATED AS FOLLOWS;

QTE YES, I UNDERSTAND MR. LI WAS TO ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE PACIFIC BASIN ECONOMIC COUNCIL. HE WOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THOSE CONDITIONS THAT APPLY TO ANYONE TRAVELLING FROM TAIWAN TO AUSTRALIA; THAT IS, THAT HE WOULD ENTER AUSTRALIA IN AN UNOFFICIAL CAPACITY. THIS POSITION WAS ALTERED WHEN MR. SINCLAIR, IN ANOTHER PLACE, ASKED MR. WHITLAM A QUESTION ABOUT MR. LI' S VISIT AND MENTIONED THAT MR. LI WAS AN OFFICIAL OF THE TAIWANESE GOVERNMENT. THIS IMMEDIATELY MADE THE ISSUE A PUBLIC ONE. THE GOVERNMENT THEN ANTICIPATED THAT THERE WOULD BE COMPLAINTS FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE' S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THOSE COMPLAINTS DID EVENTUATE. THE GOVERNMENT MADE IT VERY CLEAR TO THE TAIWANESE, AND IT WAS MENTIONED IN THIS PARLIAMENT, THAT VISAS WOULD NOT BE ISSUED TO PEOPLE WHO CAME TO AUSTRALIA, REPRESENTING THEMSELVES AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TAIWAN, BUT ONLY TO THOSE WHO COME IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY. THE GOVERNMENT THEN INFORMED MR. LI THAT IT WOULD NOT ISSUE A VISA FOR HIS VISIT. END QTE. IN ANSWER TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION, SENATOR WILLESEE MADE CLEAR THAT SINCLAIR' S IDENTIFICATION OF MINISTER LI AS GRC OFFICIAL HAD LED TO REVIEW OF MATTER AND DECISION NOT TO APPROVE VISA.

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4. IN CONVERSATION MAY 11 WITH DFA ( W. P. J. HANDMER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR NORTH ASIAN AFFAIRS, REPLACING MICHAEL COOK, WHO IS LEAVING FOR SAIGON AS AMBASSADOR) EMBOFF EXPLORED FURTHER PRESENT GUIDELINES ON VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY PERSONS FROM TAIWAN. HANDMER NOTED THAT WHOLE ISSUE OF POLICY ON SUCH VISITS HAS BEEN IN STATE

OF FLUX SINCE RECOGNITION OF PRC BY AUSTRALIA ON DECEMBER 21, 1972. HANDMER SAID THAT PRIVATE PERSON (NOT GRC MINISTER OR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL) BEARING ORDINARY PASSPORT WHO WISHED TO VISIT AUSTRALIA NORMALLY WOULD APPLY TO AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION IN HONG KONG. IF THERE IS NO QUESTION OF HIS REPRESENTING GRC, SUCH PERSON WOULD BE ISSUED QTE LETTER OF AUTHORITY END QTE (I.E., NO ENTRY WOULD BE MADE IN HIS PASSPORT) PERMITTING HIM TO ENTER AUSTRALIA. HANDMER DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON LIMITS TO BE APPLIED TO ISSUANCE OF SUCH VISAS (E.G. OFFICIAL OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED BANK IN TAIWAN, OFFICIAL OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED FACTORY OR TRADING COMPANY), NOTING THAT WHOLE ISSUE IS STILL CLOUDED AND WOULD HAVE TO BE RESOLVED OVER PERIOD OF TIME ON CASE BY CASE BASIS.

5. COMMENT: STATEMENT BY SENATOR WILLESEE IN SENATE AND COMMENTS BY DFA MAKE CLEAR THAT POLICY HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM. IN FACT, POLICY IS MUCH MORE RIGOROUS THAN PREVIOUS MORE GENEROUS POLICY ON VISAS FOR CHINESE COMMUNIST OFFICIALS PRIOR TO RECOGNITION OF PRC BY AUSTRALIA. STATEMENT BY SENATOR WILLESEE THAT THERE HAD BEEN REPRESENTATIONS BY PRC REPRESENTATIVES INDICATES THAT PRC EMBASSY WILL WATCH VISITS TO AUSTRALIA BY TAIWANESE IN ALL CATEGORIES, AND PROSPECTS FOR VISITS BY ANYONE WITH EVEN REMOTE OFFICIAL CONNECTION ARE VERY POOR.

RICE

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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